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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY SUVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, MAY 4, 1978

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/J - RICHARD KILPATRICK, ACTING

1. US ANTITRUST CHIEF TO VISIT TOKYO, MAY 11-20 (UNCLASSIFIED)

JOHN SCHENEFIELD (ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CHIEF OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S ANTITRUST BUREAU) DANIEL SCHWARZ (DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISION'S BUREAU OF COMPETITION), ACCOMPANIED BY DOJ OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR INTERNATIONAL ANTITRUST DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES AND INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT, WILL VISIT JAPAN MAY 11-20 TO MEET WITH JAPANESE FAIR TRADE COMMISSION, FOREIGN OFFICE, MITI, LEADING ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH ANTITRUST MATTERS. THE VISIT IS A FOLLOW-UP TO A SEPTEMBER 1977 VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY OFFICIALS FROM THE JAPANESE FAIR TRADE COMMISSION. PURPOSE IS GENERAL EX-

CHANGE OF VIEWS ON ANTITRUST ACTIVITIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES

AND DISCUSSION OF SUCH QUESTONS AS THE RELATION BETWEEN JAPANESE VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS AND US ANTITRUST LAWS, A US FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PROPOSAL WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE JAPANESE FIRMS TO NOTIFY US ANTITRUST AUTHORITIES OF PROPOSED MERGERS IF THE JAPANESE FIRMS HAVE A SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF THE US MARKET (PRE-MERGER NOTIFICATION), AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATONS AND GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT THE REVISED ANTI-MONOPOLY LAW OFJAPAN.

2. TRILATERAL STEEL TALKS IN TOKYO (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

IT IS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO HOLD FURTHER US-EC-JAPAN STEEL TALKS IN TOKYO ON MAY 11-12 IN PREPARATION FOR THE OECD STEEL MEETING ON MAY 22-23. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EC REPRESENTATIVES ARE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO GO THAT DISTANCE FOR ONLY 2-3 HOURS OF TALKS AND MAY HOLD OUT FOR BRUSSELS AS THE SITE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON STEEL. EB EXPECTS A DECISION WILL BE MADE BY MONDAY WHETHER THE TOKYO MEETING WILL BE HELD OR NOT. IF IT IS, THE US DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM STATE, TREASURY, COMMERCE AND LABOR.

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